



**PARISHES OF
OUR LADY AND ST. PATRICK MAESTEG
ST. ROBERT ABERKENFIG**

Parish Priest: Rev. Fr. Edmund Neizer

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2ND SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME (YEAR B) PEACE SUNDAY

MESSAGE FROM FR. EDMUND

Dearly Beloved Parishioners,

May the Peace and Joy of Christ be with you!

The Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches that: "Jesus is the Father's Emissary. From the beginning of his ministry, he "called to him those whom he desired; . . . And he appointed twelve, whom also he named apostles, to be with him, and to be sent out to preach." From then on, they would also be his "emissaries" (Greek *apostoloi*). In them, Christ continues his own mission: "As the Father has sent me, even so I send you." The apostles' ministry is the continuation of his mission; Jesus said to the Twelve: "he who receives you receives me." (CCC, 858)

Beloved, Samuel's prompt response to the Lord's call reveals his attentiveness and readiness to serve the Lord. God called Samuel to be His prophet, that He will inspire him with His messages, which Samuel in turn would transmit to the people of God. God's call to Samuel was personal in the same way He calls each one of us personally by name as members of the "Body of Christ" to be His witnesses in the world.

St. Paul compares our relationship with Christ to a marriage covenant. Just as in marriage the bodies of the husband and wife belongs to one another, by our Baptism our bodies belong to Christ, therefore we must not use our bodies for immorality. The Church herself, for which we belong as members, is called the "Bride of Christ" and our union with Christ Jesus is strengthened when we receive Holy Communion, making us temples of the Holy Spirit.

My dear People of God, through Baptism, the Holy Spirit dwells within us. Our soul, which is spiritual, gives life to the body, forming a unity, which is the human person. Although separated by death, body and soul are reunited at the resurrection of the death. Through the death and resurrection of Christ Jesus, He has purchased our redemption and salvation by His Precious Blood. Therefore, our body belongs to Christ, the Lamb of God.

Brothers and Sisters in Christ, it is very interesting to note that some of the early disciples of Christ Jesus came by the introduction/invitation of others who knew and followed him. This is a clear example that apostolate or evangelization occurs naturally through friendships and personal relationship.

Beloved, let us like Eli, John the Baptist and Andrew, in today's readings introduce Christ Jesus to those closest to us, and like Samuel and Simon respond promptly to the invitation of Christ to come and follow Him in His mission for the redemption and salvation of the World. God love you all!

United in prayer!

MASS INTENTIONS: *I will continue to celebrate Mass (public with restrictions and private Mass). If you wish to have Mass celebrated, give your intention to the Stewards when you come to Church; post through the Presbytery letter box; send by post to Father Edmund, The Presbytery, Monica Street, Maesteg, CF34 9AY; telephone the Parish 01656 733282/mobile number 07964 366710 or e-mail to maesteg@rcadc.org*



'Speak Lord, your servant is listening: you have the message of eternal life.' (1Samuel 3:9; Jn :68)

(Psalter Week 2; Sunday Reading Cycle B)

2ND SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME (YEAR B) PEACE SUNDAY

Saturday 5pm ST. ROBERT'S (Restrictions apply)

Bernard Tipping RIP (KL)

People of our Parishes, Those suffering from Coronavirus, NHS/Care Home' Staff/frontline workers/volunteers

2ND SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME (YEAR B) 17th January 2021 PEACE SUNDAY

HOLY MASS: OUR LADY & ST PATRICK'S MAESTEG (Restrictions apply)

9am: Mike Davies RIP (KR)

11am: Cristina Bisagni RIP (L&AC)

5 pm: Bill Heath RIP (GBG)

Monday: 18th January 2021: Weekday in Ordinary Time Year 1, Week 2

Private Mass: Ellen, Eddie, Peter, Brian and Buckley Family RIP (M&F)

Private Intention

Tuesday: 19th January 2021: Weekday in Ordinary Time Year 1, Week 2

10 am: (Restrictions apply): Kerry Heatley RIP (P&CD) Cristina Bisagni RIP (GW)

Wednesday: 20th January 2021: Weekday in Ordinary Time Year 1, Week 2

ST. ROBERT'S ABERKENFIG (Restrictions apply)

10 am: F.R.E. (GR)

Thursday: 21st January 2021: St. Agnes Virgin and Martyr

10 am (Restrictions apply): Michael Davies RIP (C&TJ)

Friday: 22nd January 2021: Weekday in Ordinary Time Year 1, Week 2

Private Mass: Private Intention (WD)

We pray for Archbishop George and all Clergy & Religious Men and Women

Saturday: 23rd January 2021: Votive Memorial of Our Lady

Private Mass: May, Cyril & Griffiths family RIP (M&F)

Aurora, Conversion of Federica & Souls in Purgatory (AA)

(Psalter Week 2; Sunday Reading Cycle B)

3rd SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME (YEAR B)

Saturday 5pm ST. ROBERT'S (Restrictions apply)

Private Intention (BL)

3rd SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME (YEAR B) 24th January 2021

HOLY MASS: OUR LADY & ST PATRICK'S MAESTEG (Restrictions apply)

**9am: People of our Parishes, Those suffering from Coronavirus,
NHS/Care Home' Staff/frontline workers/volunteers**

11am: James Connolly RIP (SG)

5 pm: Cristina Bisagni RIP (CW)

ETERNAL REST: Let us pray for the repose of the souls of DAVID WHELAN who passed on the 26th December 2020, his Funeral Service will take place on Friday 29th January 2021 at 1pm at Our Lady & St. Patrick, and JACQUELINE WILLIAMS who passed on the 24th December 2020, her Funeral Service will take place on Monday 25th January 2021 at Our Lady & St. Patrick, ELAINE KELLY who passed on the 1st January 2021 and MAUREEN MARGARET JENKINS who passed on 9th January 2021 whose Funeral Services will take place on Wednesday 3rd February 2021 at 1pm and Tuesday 16th February 2021 at 1pm respectfully at Our Lady & St. Patrick; and TERRY MARONEY and JEAN PEARCE who passed recently. *May they rest in perfect peace and rise in Eternal Glory.*

Our sincere sympathies and prayers go to their bereaved families.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION & SPIRITUAL DIRECTION

Fr. Edmund will be available this Friday from 1pm - 6pm for Confessions and Spiritual Direction. Anyone who would like to see him should book an appointment directly with him on the mobile number 07964366710.

ADORATION AND PRIVATE PRAYER (Need to book a time-details below)

The Church will be open between 1.00 pm and 6.00pm on Fridays for Adoration and Private Prayers. Those wishing to attend should contact Collette on 07702023565 to arrange a time slot.

PLEASE NOTE: ON FRIDAY, 29TH JANUARY, DUE TO A FUNERAL SERVICE, THE CHURCH WILL OPEN FROM 3 PM TO 6 PM

To attend Masses please telephone the following Stewards:

MAESTEG PARISH:

TUESDAY 10.00am Derek or Denis on 01656 731767 (Any afternoon after 2pm)

THURSDAY 10.00am Collette on 07702023565

SUNDAY: 9.00am Derek or Denis on 01656 731767 (Any afternoon after 2pm)

11.00am Collette on 07702023565 5.00pm Michelle 07488322929

ABERKENFIG PARISH

WEDNESDAY 10 am & SATURDAY Vigil Mass 5 pm - Bill Ennis on 724855, after 6.30 pm.

Please Note: Only those who have received confirmation of bookings from the Stewards are able to attend.

Please do not attend if not booked as we do not want to turn people away at the door

By registering to attend Mass the published restrictions still apply.

- The Bishops' Conference of England and Wales has confirmed that the obligation to attend Sunday and Holy Day Masses remains suspended. So please do not feel under any pressure to attend Church. *Please everyone take care and be safe.*
- Online or phone Mass are valid alternatives and remain available; refer to previous Newsletter *Let us give thanks to God for this great mercy. May God richly bless you. Stay safe and remain in God's love and care.*

WE PRAY FOR:

- His holiness Pope Francis, Archbishop George, all clergy & men/women of Religious Orders
- an end to the Pandemic and for our parishioners and all who work in the hospitals/care homes and our frontline workers/volunteers, as great pressure is on them once again
- the faithful departed parishioners, family, friends and those who have died from the Pandemic; may they rest in peace
- the sick at home/hospital and housebound of our Parishes, those who are affected by and suffering with Coronavirus, the homeless, our friends, relatives, neighbours, fellow Parishioners, those suffering with loneliness, financial difficulties, job losses due to this Pandemic
- our young people & students, Headteachers, Teachers, Staff & Governors of our Schools

Act of Spiritual Communion St Alphonsus Liguori: My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love you above all things and I desire to receive you into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive you sacramentally, come spiritually into my heart. I embrace you as if you were already there and unite myself wholly to you. Never permit me to be separated from you.

Prayer in the midst of the Covid Pandemic:

“Lord Jesus, Just as You journeyed alongside the disciples on the road to Emmaus, be alongside us as we journey through these dark times. Help us to reflect and find comfort from the comforting words of the Bible where divine love, mercy and justice are ever present. We remember all those whose lives have been touched by the Covid virus. May Your loving kindness keep them close to You. Inspire us with Your message of hope in the Resurrection, as we seek to keep ourselves and those who are close to us safe and well in these challenging times. We ask this prayer in your name's sake. Amen.”

FINANCE: **MAESTEG:** (Income received 10TH January 2021)

Gift Aid £228.10; Planned Giving/Loose £249.70; Funeral Donation £100;

Retiring (Maintenance/Restoration) £103.00; Standing Orders December £1009.

Sunday, January 24th: Sunday of the Word 24th January is the special day inaugurated by Pope Francis to promote greater love of the Bible in our faith and daily lives. “Devoting a specific Sunday of the liturgical year to the word of God can enable the Church to experience anew how the risen Lord opens up for us the treasury of his word and enables us to proclaim its unfathomable riches before the world.” Pope Francis – ‘Aperuit Allis’. 1. Blessing of Bibles All the Faithful are encouraged to bring their Bibles to Mass or to have them with them at their live-streamed Mass to be blessed during the Sunday of the Word of God as decreed by Pope Francis. Introduction • To encourage the faithful to own a copy of the Bible and to read it prayerfully, they might be invited to bring their Bibles to Mass for them to be blessed. • People should be encouraged to bring any edition or even a part, such as the Gospels. • In the homily, the priest or deacon may speak on the importance of Scripture in the life of the Church, different approaches to reading Scripture and on the particular readings of the celebration. He may even invite people to find the Gospel text of the day in their own Bible. • The blessing takes place after the Prayer of the Faithful. • It would be suitable to celebrate this blessing on the Sunday of the Word of God (3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time). To celebrate it well will require an invitation in the weeks before and the ordering of any Gospels to be given out. Order of Blessing within Mass Prayer of Blessing: The assembly is invited to hold up their copies of the Bible. With hands extended over the assembly (live or online), the celebrant says: “Everlasting God, when He read in the synagogue at Nazareth, Your Son proclaimed the good news of salvation for which He would give up His life. Bless all who will read from these sacred texts. As they read, listen and reflect on your words of life, strengthen their faith so that what they read in hope, they may live in love and charity. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.” (Prayer based on Order of Blessing of Readers, Book of Blessings) 2. Echoes of God: Journeying with God’s Word This is a very worthwhile new 7-week course - Echoes of God written by David McLoughlin explores how the Old and New Testaments echo each other in their preparation for, and arrival of, Jesus. See the programme here. godwhospeaks.uk/echoes-of-god-journeying-with-the-word-of-god

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity starting Monday, 18th January 2020: The theme for 2021 is 'Abiding in Christ', based on John 15:1-17. It expresses and encourages the vocation to prayer, reconciliation and unity in the Church and the human family. Although many of us are unable to meet with our fellow Christians this year, the Commission for Christian Unity encourages us to make use of the prayerful material available as a download. Find it at <https://ctbi.org.uk/week-of-prayer-for-christian-unity-2021/> and sustain our prayer for the Unity for which Christ prayed. Contact email: unity@rcadc.org

OUR LADY & ST PATRICK PARISH 300+ Club, 2021: Sincere thanks for your continued support. Even though reduced membership, with your support we raised £1200 for our Church funds in 2020.

Given the continued heavy restrictions relating to the COVID-19 pandemic it is going to be a challenge to continue with this very much needed fundraising activity, especially as we may be unable to attend Mass to make our membership payments.

The following are ways in which we can help you to continue your support:

1. Envelopes containing your address and membership number(s) will be delivered to you where possible which you can use to return. *PLEASE NOTE AS THERE ARE SO MANY SPARE NUMBERS NOW WE HAVE AMENDED THE LIST AND THOSE WITH LATTER NUMBERS ON THE REGISTER HAVE NEW NUMBERS.*

- If you are able to attend Mass, please drop off your membership payment at church where our stewards shall collect and secure them for reconciliation. If you are not able to attend Mass, but have a family member or friend who is attending Mass, please would you give your envelopes to them to drop off at church or post to The Presbytery, Monica Street, Maesteg, CF34 9AY.

2. ‘Click & Collect’ - Below are a list of names you can telephone to confirm your interest and a member of the team will visit you to pick up your money and to hand over to you your membership card from a safe distance.

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| • Michael Banks: | 07584177456 |
| • Maria Kelly-Harris: | 07964965152 |
| • Dennis & Derek Horton, after 2.00pm: | 01656 731767 |
| • Collette: | 07702023565 |
| • Linda Morgan: | 07966699750 |
| • Angela Brennan: | 07572274646 |
| • Gillian Williams | 07852946337 |

We look forward to hearing from you and to welcoming you to ***Our Lady & St Patrick’s 300+ Club Monthly Draw, 2021.***